

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 OMB-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 /116 W

----- 033417

R 141100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6820

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AF

SUBJECT: U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL BY DCM LEWIS, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, ON PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER, MOHAMMAD NAIM, FEBRUARY 13, DCM MADE OBSERVATION THAT HE WAS LEAVING AFGHANISTAN IN AN OPTIMISTIC FRAME OF MIND AFTER COURSE OF RECENT WEEKS HAD DEMONSTRATED GOVERNMENT'S INCREASINGLY FIRM GRASP ON GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY AND PRIORITIES. NAIM, AFTER THINKING FOR A MOMENT, RESPONDED THAT HE, ON THE CONTRARY, WAS RATHER PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE. HE THEN CLARIFIED HIS PESSIMISM BY STRESSING ENORMITY OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING DAOUD REGIME AND PAUCITY OF RESOURCES WITH WHICH TO ADDRESS THEM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WILL AND DETERMINATION OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WERE FIRM, BUT STRESSED NEED FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM UNITED STATES AS INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN PRODUCING SOME TANGIBLE INCREASE IN LIVING STANDARDS FOR AFGHAN PEOPLE.

2. NAIM TALKED THEN AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT VITAL IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING THE HELMAND VALLEY PROJECT AND OTHER PROJECTS WHICH HAD BEEN STARTED WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE BUT WHICH HAD YET A CONSIDERABLE WAY TO GO TO REALIZE THEIR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE U.S. "COMPLETE THE JOB" IT HAD STARTED IN THE HELMAND AND THAT HE HAD "GIVEN THE NECESSARY

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ORDERS" TO SEEK SUCH ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. DCM ATTEMPTED TO FOCUS

ATTENTION ON NEED FOR STRONGER AFGHAN PRIORITY SETTING, PLANNING MECHANISM AND SELF-HELP MEASURES WHILE NAIM REITERATED CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IT HAD MADE A GOOD START BUT WHERE JOB WAS CLEARLY FAR FROM OVER.

3. COMMENT: THIS EXCHANGE WAS PART OF DIALOGUE NOW UNDERWAY, AS DEPT AND AID/W AWARE, CONCERNING FUTURE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IN HELMAND VALLEY. IT WAS HOWEVER MOST AUTHORITATIVE INDICATION TO DATE THAT DAOUD REGIME HOPES U.S. WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL NEW ASSISTANCE THERE.  
ELIOT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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